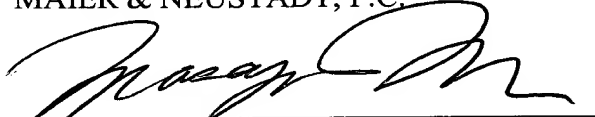


In order to overcome the provisional double patenting rejection, a corresponding amendment has been filed with co-pending application No. 10/067,934, which cancels Claims 1-17, 23-29 and 43-46 and amends Claims 18-21, 30, 31, 34, 35, 37 and 41 therein.

Consequently, in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1-45 is patentable. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance, and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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